

Contribution for NSC Briefing -- 30 June 1955

The Warsaw Pact of May 1955 was a second important step in Soviet bloc economic planning toward greater integration according to the Berliner Zeitung, an East Berlin Communist newspaper. The first step was said to have been the establishment of the Council for Economic Mutual Assistance (CEMA) in 1949.

The paper gives specific examples of economic specialization for various Satellites and cites cases of Satellite economic co-operation as indications of the progress already made toward Soviet bloc integration. East Germany's role in the co-ordinated effort is that of an important full partner -- a role East Germany has held in the past.

East Germany's important role in economic integration is in sharp contrast to its secondary role in the military sphere. When the Warsaw Pact was announced by the Communists last May, East Germany was not to provide armed forces for the USSR-Satellite joint command until an unspecified future date. This suggests that the earlier announcements of the military aspects were motivated by a Communist desire to avoid furnishing immediate justification for West German rearmament, and also

to provide grounds for continuing strenuous objection to it. In addition, East German military participation in a joint command would have created an obstacle to ^{Efforts for} German unification efforts and to possible negotiations between East and West Germany.